

COUNTRY

Eastern Germany

REPORT

River Maintenance Work on the Elbe

TOP SECRET

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 15 October 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 1 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The Magdeburg regional waterways headquarters was ordered by the Ministry of State Security to suspend all river maintenance work on these sections of the Elbe River, which form the boundary between Eastern and Western Germany.
2. A sum of 150,000 eastmarks was allocated for river maintenance work on the Elbe in 1952. About 100,000 eastmarks had been spent prior to August, mostly for river control. For this purpose 11,500 cubic meters of gravel and sand were dumped along the river. This material must be covered with stones before the high water period sets in. The order given by the Ministry of State Security creates the danger that the loose masses of sand and gravel will be washed into the navigable channel of the river and thus become an obstacle to shipping. For this reason the Magdeburg regional waterways headquarters has requested the Directorate General, Shipping, to contact the Ministry of State Security with a view to have the order concerned rescinded. *

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* [redacted] Current. The meaning of the order given by the Ministry of State Security is not clear. The order may be connected with plans to make Western Germany share in the cost of maintenance work on the Elbe River between Schmackenburg and a point northwest of Boizenburg, where it forms the boundary between Western and Eastern Germany.